GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5325
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
UNVIABLE IRRIGATION PROJECTS
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that crucial irrigation projects of the country have been rendered unviable due to erratic expenditure, mismanagement and excess payments;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take remedial measures to make the projects viable;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, investigation, funding alongwith priority, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects, including irrigation and flood control primarily rests with the concerned State Governments themselves. State Governments are empowered to accord investment clearance for major & medium irrigation projects on intra-state rivers. Only major & medium projects on inter-state rivers are required to be referred to the Central Water Commission (CWC) for techno- economic appraisal, which includes economic viability, acceptance by the Advisory Committee and according investment clearance by the Planning Commission after statutory clearances are also obtained. Due to thin spreading of resources by the States by taking up too many projects and other factors like resettlement of project affected families, land acquisition, contractual problems, law and order problems etc., many irrigation projects have suffered from time and cost overruns. State Governments are also required to furnish revised project reports for projects approved by the Planning Commission where the revised estimates of the project have increased by more than 15% of the original cost, including escalation due to price rise or where there is a change in the scope of the project. In some cases, this procedure is not being followed by the State Governments.